

21 November 2022

Julie Mariuzzo  
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Tēnā koe Julie

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 13 October 2022, in which you asked for information regarding Immigration New Zealand (INZ) vetting requests relating to the Residence Visa (RV) 2021 programme.

My response to each of your questions can be found below.

*1. How many police vetting service requests have been made by Immigration New Zealand between 1 January 2022 and today*

A total of 124,024 vetting requests were received from INZ between 1 January 2022 and 7 November 2022 under the RV 2021 programme.

*2. Of these, how many have been completed (police vetting outcome communicated to Immigration New Zealand)?*

Of the 124,024 vetting requests received from INZ between 1 January 2022 and 7 November 2022, a total of 109,381 have been completed and released as of 1pm on 7 November 2022.

*3. Could you please provide a breakdown by month of the number of police vetting service requests received from Immigration New Zealand and the number of police vetting service requests completed since 1st January 2022?*

Please refer to Appendix A.

*4. How many police vetting service requests from Immigration New Zealand are still pending on the day this OIA request is made.*

The number of requests pending from a date in the past is unable to be determined using the available reporting technology. However, as of 1pm on 7 November 2022, a total of 14,643 INZ RV 2021 requests are pending.

*5. What is the current processing timeframe to answer police vetting service request from Immigration New Zealand?*

For applications submitted between 1 January 2022 and 7 November 2022, the average processing time is 30.5 working days.

INZ and the Police Vetting Service are working closely together to ensure that all RV 2021 applications are being processed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

#### **Police National Headquarters**

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

INZ has agreed that the standard Vetting Service 20 working day service level will not apply to RV 2021 applications. This is because it would not be reasonable to hold the Vetting Service to this timeframe when they are submitting such a high volume of requests in addition to the normal volumes received by the Police Vetting Service.

*6. In what order are the police vetting service requests from Immigration New Zealand processed? Some requests have been pending for more than 4 months whereas some are released on the day they are requested.*

Generally, all vetting applications are processed based on the date of submission, from oldest to newest. However, individual processing times for a vetting application can fluctuate, depending on several factors including the complexity of the information being assessed, and whether an application meets the criteria for automation.

Additionally, some applications may be subject to an internal review process, which can also impact upon the processing time. Internal reviews may be necessary for a number of reasons. For example, identity details of the applicant may need to be confirmed with the agency, or ambiguous information may need to be clarified by requesting and reviewing additional information from other Police workgroups and districts. The review process is important to ensure that vetting applications are completed accurately and fairly.

As a result, some vetting requests may be released to INZ prior to other requests that were submitted on an earlier date.

If you have further questions that pertain to the Vetting Process, please do not hesitate to contact [XXXXXXXXXXXX.XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX.XXXX.XX](mailto:XXXXXXXXXXXX.XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX.XXXX.XX)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa,



Genevieve Courtney  
Vetting Advisor  
New Zealand Police

## Appendix A Immigration New Zealand Resident Visa 2021 requests received and completed by month

	INZ requests <i>received</i> by month										Total
	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	
MBIE - New Zealand Immigration Service - 2021 Residence Visa	2,262	6,772	9,799	619	42,819	10,699	40,743	6,577	2,610	591	123,491
MBIE - New Zealand Immigration Service - All remaining visa types	3,926	5,169	4,226	1,979	2,871	2,231	1,843	2,387	1,918	1,165	27,715
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,188</b>	<b>11,941</b>	<b>14,025</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>45,690</b>	<b>12,930</b>	<b>42,586</b>	<b>8,964</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>151,206</b>
	INZ requests <i>completed</i> by month										Total
	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	
MBIE - New Zealand Immigration Service - 2021 Residence Visa	10,701	3,955	11,267	2,247	10,392	20,213	16,582	15,633	9,330	3,800	104,120

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